GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1427
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Rise in Price of Essential Commodities
Datta Shri Sankar Prasad;Innocent Shri ;Vichare Shri Rajan Baburao

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the rise in prices of various essential commodities like foodgrains, pulses, edible oils and vegetables in the country during the recent months;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;
(c) the details of the cases of hoarding and black-marketing detected/reported along with the action taken against those held responsible during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and the measures taken to check recurrence of such cases;
(d) whether the prices of vegetables are likely to see a steep rise in future, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(e) whether the Government has formulated a policy to check the hoarding of vegetables taking place in the States and if so, the details in this regard; and
(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government so that the people can get relief from rise in prices of vegetables?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) : Prices of most of the essential food items monitored by Price Monitoring Cell (PMC), D/o Consumer Affairs, declined or were relatively stable in the recent months. Details are at Annexure-I. Prices of pulses, wheat and edible oils generally showed a decline in recent months. A few food items like rice, gur, potato, onion and tomato recorded an increase. Increase in prices of food items is mainly on account of demand supply mismatch owing to shortfall in production due to adverse weather condition, seasonality, increase in transportation costs, supply chain constraints, etc.

(c) : Details are at Annexure- II

(d) : Prices of vegetables depend on their production and availability which is affected by various factors such as weather conditions, seasonal fluctuations in market arrivals, imperfections in marketing channels, etc.

(e) : States/UTs have been empowered to enforce provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 and may take action against hoarding of essential commodities including vegetables.

(f) : Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, etc. The scheme envisages production and productivity improvement of horticultural crops, assistance for creation of post-harvest infrastructure as well as infrastructure for marketing of fruits and vegetables to ensure supply of fruits and vegetables. Also, Government is implementing Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) scheme to help moderate price volatility of agri-horticultural commodities like onion and potatoes.
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